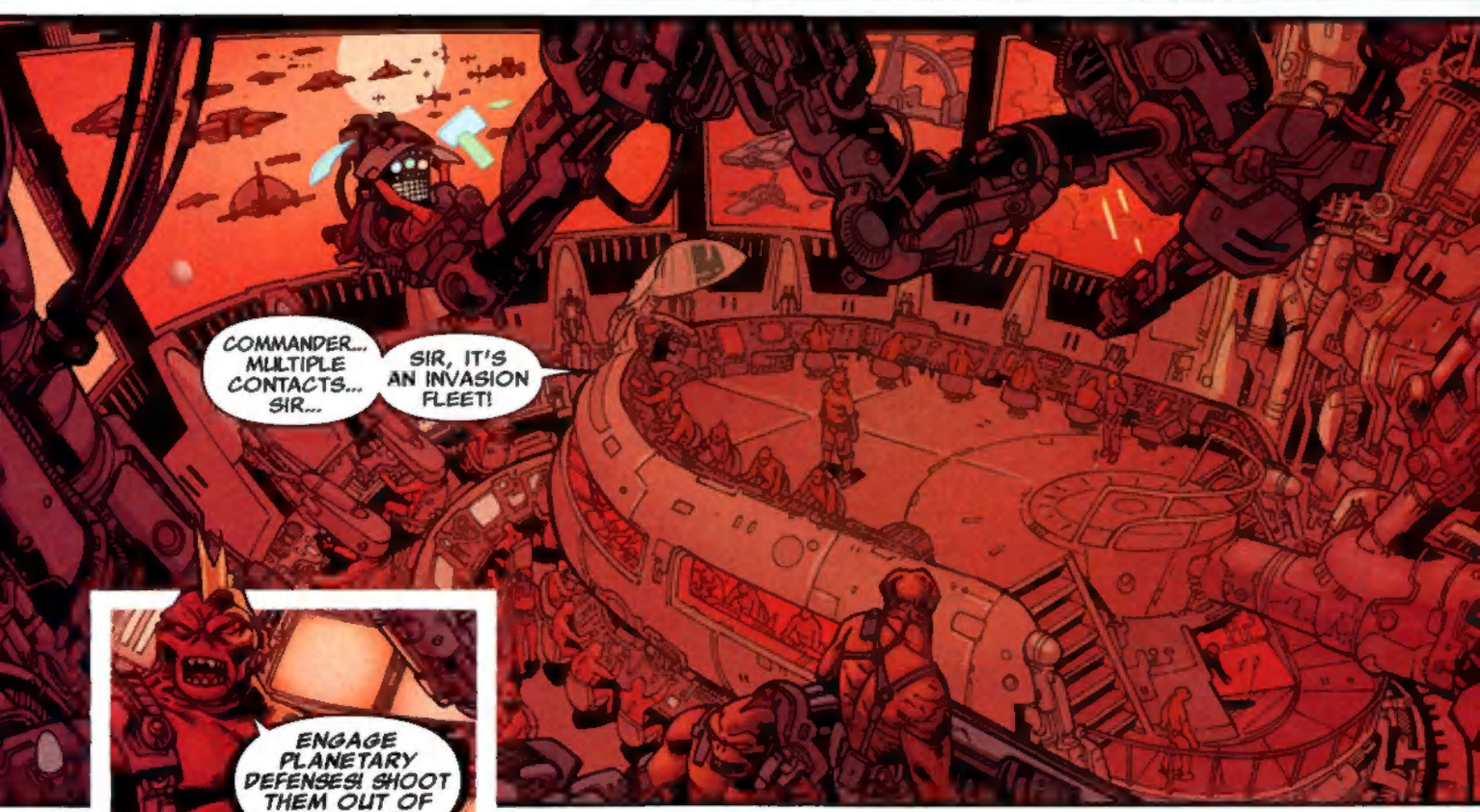

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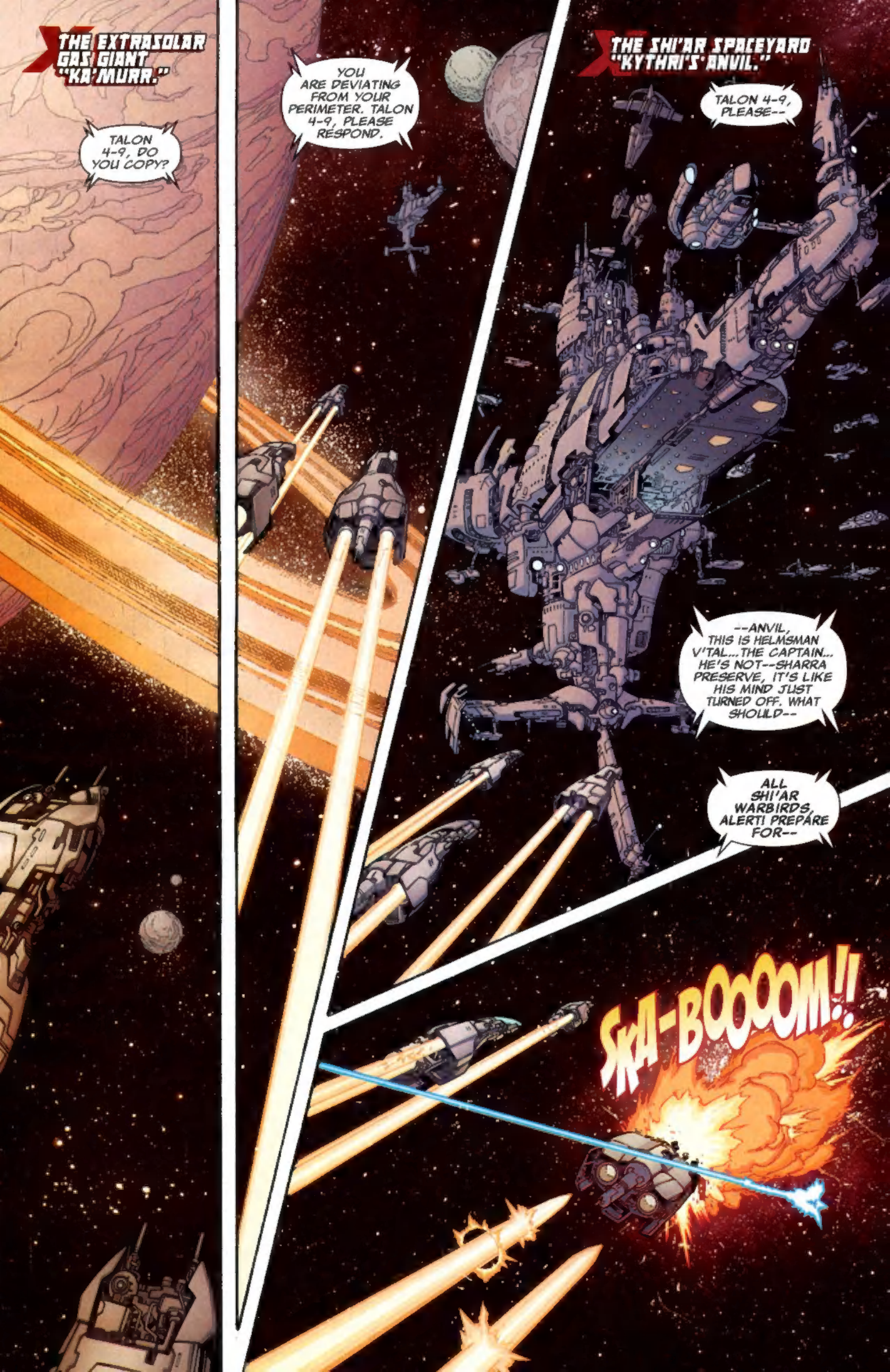
WHO WOULD DARE!?
MY LIEGE...IT IS THE SHI'AR! THE SHI'AR ARE INVAD--
KA-THOOM!
WE... >COUGH< WE ARE THE Z'NOX. WE WILL NEVER FALL...
CALL HOME OUR FORCES... >COUGH< WE WILL DESTROY THE AVIANS...
"NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND THE Z'NOX!"
BOOOOM!

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, "KING OF THE Z'NOX"...
THINK!
HNN!
...FROM YOUR NEW RULER.
CHOK!
KINGBREAKER
CHRISTOPHER YOST writer
DUSTIN WEAVER penciler
JAIME MENDOZA inker
NATHAN FAIRBAIRN colorist
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA letterer
DANIEL KETCHUM assistant editor
NICK LOWE editor
JOE QUESADA editor in chief
DAN BUCKLEY publisher
WELCOME TO THE SHI'AR EMPIRE.
GABRIEL SUMMERS, ALSO KNOWN AS EMPEROR VULCAN.

PLANET OVAR, THE JANSTAK STAR SYSTEM.
THERE MUST BE ORDER.
THE AUTHORITY OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL COULD HAVE HELPED PREVENT THE RECENT CATASTROPHES.
THE KREE DID NOT SUFFER ALONE DURING THE ANNIHILATION WAVE, AMBASSADOR. RECORDER, IF YOU WILL...
AT LAST KNOWN CENSUS, 3.279 TRILLION LIVES WERE LOST DUE TO--
ENOUGH! RONAN HAS TAKEN STEPS TO INSURE THE KREE'S PROTECTION AND SURVIVAL. CAN RIGEL SAY THE SAME? CAN ANY OTHER EMPIRE SAY THAT?
RIGEL AGREES WITH YOU, KREE. THE GALACTIC COUNCIL MUST BE RE-FORMED. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SHI'AR IS MOST TROUBLESOME, THOUGH.
THEIR LACK OF AID DURING THE ANNIHILATION WAVE AND THE RECENT CONQUEST OF KREE SPACE IS EVEN MORE SO.
INDEED... AND PERHAPS MORE THAN TROUBLING.
OVOID SCANNERS HAVE INTERCEPTED A DISTRESS CALL FROM THE Z'NOX. THEY HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THE SHI'AR FORCES.
THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE SHI'AR GALAXY. LILANDRA NEREMANI RENOUNCED EXPANSION AFTER THE KREE/SHI'AR WAR.
IF THERE IS TO BE ORDER, THE SHI'AR MUST BE INVOLVED. THEY ARE TOO POWERFUL TO IGNORE.
WE WILL GET AN ANSWER TO THIS INCURSION FROM THE IMPERIUM... WHOEVER MAY BE RUNNING IT.

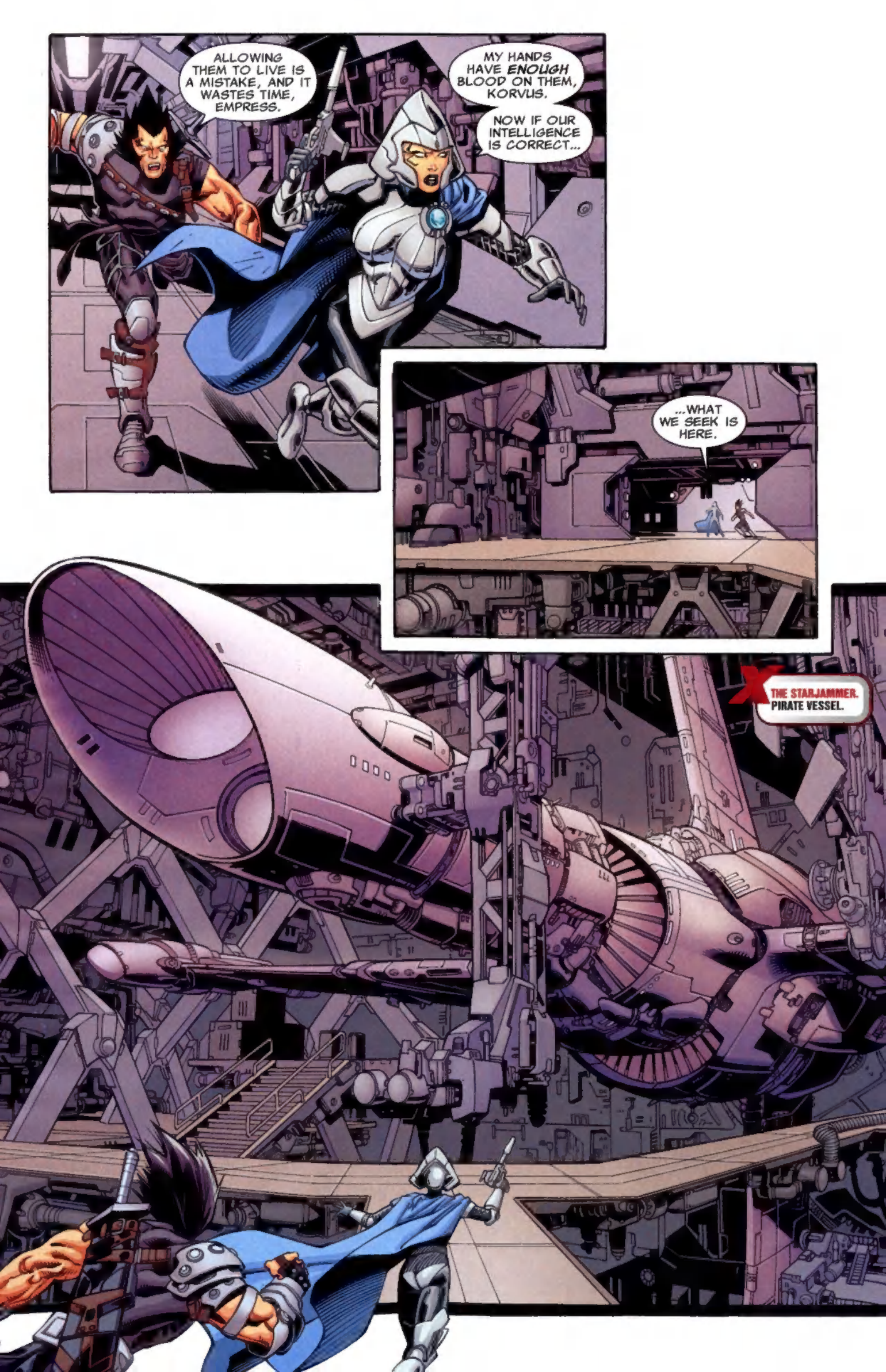
VULCAN!
VULCAN!
VULCAN!
VULCAN!
VULCAN!
VULCAN!
SHI'AR PEOPLE! HEAR ME!!
EMPEROR VULCAN HAS MADE TRUE HIS PROMISE...THE SHI'AR RISE AGAIN! OUR POWER GROWS, AND OUR EMPIRE EXPANDS!
THE UNIVERSE ONCE MORE BOWS TO OUR POWER! IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN!
EMPRESS CAL'STEE NERAMANI, ALSO KNOWN AS DEATHBIRD.
FOR ON THIS DAY...YOUR EMPEROR HAS BROKEN THE KING OF THE MIGHTY Z'NOX!
ADMIRAL KA'ARDUM, LEADER OF THE SHI'AR FLEET.
RAAAAAAAAAA!!!
THIS IS YOUR EMPEROR VULCAN! VULCAN THE GREAT! VULCAN THE KINGBREAKER!
"HE SHOULD BE HERE."

HE SHOULD STAY ON THE FRONT LINE, OR BE HERE ON CHANDILAR OVERSEEING THE EMPIRE. NOT TORMENTING HIS BROTHER.
AND WILL YOU TELL HIM WHAT HE SHOULD BE DOING, UNCLE?
I KNOW YOU ARE NOT AFRAID OF HIM, CAL'SYEE. YOU FEAR NOTHING, YOU NEVER DID.
VULCAN IS EMPEROR. HE DOES WHAT HE WANTS. BUT I KNOW HIS HEART, AND I KNOW THE HATE THAT BLOOD CAN MAKE.
LET HIM HAVE HIS HATE. IT MAKES THE EMPIRE STRONG.
THERE IS STRENGTH, AND THEN THERE IS RECKLESSNESS.
MY HUSBAND IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE HIS OWN FAULTS.
HIS ENEMIES ARE NOT.


THE EXTRASOLAR GAS GIANT "KA'MURR."
TALON 4-9, DO YOU COPY?
YOU ARE DEVIATING FROM YOUR PERIMETER. TALON 4-9, PLEASE RESPOND.
THE SHI'AR SPACEYARD "KYTHRI'S ANVIL."
TALON 4-9, PLEASE--
--ANVIL, THIS IS HELMSMAN V'TAL...THE CAPTAIN... HE'S NOT--SHARRA PRESERVE, IT'S LIKE HIS MIND JUST TURNED OFF. WHAT SHOULD--
ALL SHI'AR WARBIRDS, ALERT! PREPARE FOR--
SKA-BOOOOM!!

KA-THOOM
RACHEL GREY, ALSO KNOWN AS MARVEL GIRL.
I CAN HEAR THEM, LILANDRA...THEY'VE ALREADY SENT OUT THE ALARM. WE'VE GOT ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE REST OF THE FLEET ARRIVES.
IF ANY OF THE GUARD SHOW UP--
I KNOW THE DRILL, JUST GO!

PLEASE, I BEG YOU...YOU ARE MY PEOPLE. LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS. I DO NOT WISH TO SEE YOU HURT.
LILANDRA NERAMANI, FORMER EMPRESS OF THE SHI'AR.
LILANDRA NERAMANI, YOUR TERMINATION HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE EMPEROR HIMSELF.
KILL HER.
I AM SO SORRY I FAILED YOU.
KORVUS... TAKE THEM.
RRAAAAA!!
GAAAH!!
AAAIEEE!!
KORVUS ROOK'SHIR, WIELDER OF THE BLADE OF THE PHOENIX.


ALLOWING THEM TO LIVE IS A MISTAKE, AND IT WASTES TIME, EMPRESS.
MY HANDS HAVE ENOUGH BLOOD ON THEM, KORVUS.
NOW IF OUR INTELLIGENCE IS CORRECT...
...WHAT WE SEEK IS HERE.
THE STARJAMMER. PIRATE VESSEL.

GUYS? =UHNNN!= CAN WE SPEED THIS UP?
WE'VE GOT IT AND ARE LAUNCHING NOW. GET READY FOR EVAC.
FINALLY! I--
ARE YOU POSITIVE YOU CAN FLY THIS SHIP, ROOK'SHIR?
IT...IS AN UNUSUAL SHIP.

THE WORLD, SHI'AR SPACE.
HOME OF THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL. SITE OF THE M'KRAAN XENOCIDE.
"HOW MUCH LONGER?"
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GOING TO HIDE IN THIS GRAVEYARD? YOUR CONTACTS DON'T KNOW WHERE ALEX AND LORNA ARE, I CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO READ ANYONE WHO KNOWS...
THEY COULD BE DEAD!
THIRD DEGREE BURN, LASER FIRE? NOTE: I SENSE YOU ARE VERY UPSET.
SHUT UP, INSECT.
MY CONTACTS FOUND US THIS SHIP, RACHEL. VULCAN IS KEEPING THE OTHERS ALIVE...HAVOK, POLARIS, EVEN CH'OD AND RAZA.
HAD HE KILLED THEM, HE WOULD LET THE WHOLE UNIVERSE KNOW.
WE WILL FIND THEM, RACHEL.
THIS IS MY EMPIRE, NOT VULCAN'S. NOT DEATHBIRD'S OR KA'ARDUM'S. MINE. AND I WILL HAVE IT BACK BEFORE THEY PLUNGE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE INTO WAR.

THE PLANET KA'KN, AT THE EDGE OF SHI'AR SPACE.
"...EVER SINCE YOUR INITIAL VISITS. AFTER YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR SPIES' REPORTS OF THE MUTANT ACTIVITY ON EARTH, WE BELIEVE HIS MIND HAS SNAPPED."
HE RESPONDS TO NOTHING, HE DOES NOTHING. YOU HAVE BROKEN HIM, MY EMPEROR.
WARDEN... YOU DON'T KNOW MY BROTHER.

RAZA LONGKNIFE.
"HE KEPT PIECING TOGETHER WEAPONS OUT OF HIS CYBERNETIC PARTS. WE'VE SINCE HAD THEM REMOVED."
"AGAIN, MY EMPEROR, [redacted] RECOMMEND EXECUTION FOR ALL FOUR PRISONERS."
"NOT YET."
"THIS ONE, LONGKNIFE...HE'S KILLED EIGHT GUARDS SINCE HE'S [redacted] HERE.
CH'OB.
SSSSS
HAISS
"THE LIZARD?"
"ALMOST IMPERVIOUS TO TORTURE. AND HE'S BEEN TORTURED THE MOST.
"HIS MANNER... IT UPSETS THE TORTURERS."
REALLY? THIS IS IT? HRM. YOUR LINES LACK CONFIDENCE, AND THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF STYLE IS SAD, YES? YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN.

THE EARTHER MUTANT.
LORNA DANE, ALSO KNOWN AS POLARIS.
WHY IS SHE ASLEEP?
MY LORD...WE WERE FORCED TO DRUG HER. NOTHING ELSE WE'VE TRIED HAS WORKED.
WE KEEP MODIFYING THE POWER DAMPENER, BUT SHE KEEPS SHORTING IT OUT. AND THE DRUGS...SOMETHING IN HER SYSTEM IS BURNING OUT THE DRUGS AS WELL. SOMETHING BEYOND ANY MUTANT POWERS WE'VE EVER SEEN...
LORNA DANE...WHAT'S INSIDE YOU?
FINE. MORE DRUGS. RECORD HER BEING INJECTED, SHOW THE VIDEO TO HAVOK. MAKE IT PAIN--
ALEX...

WHAT... WHERE IS... WHERE...
VULCAN.
DAMN IT. GET THE SYRINGE, NOW!
VULCAN!!!
KILL YOU, GABRIEL! I'M GOING TO--
HNN!
AAAH!!
BACK TO SLEEP.
CRACK!
FIND OUT WHAT'S MAKING HER SO POWERFUL.
AND YOU MAY WANT TO UP THE DOSAGE AGAIN.

I WANT HER DEAD!!
DO YOU HEAR ME?! I WANT RACHEL GREY DEAD, I WANT LILANDRA DEAD!
EMPEROR...THE FLEET'S RESOURCES...YOU HAVE ASSIGNED THEM TO THE GREAT EXPANSION...YOU HAVE PUT THE IMPERIAL GUARD ON THE FRONT LINE...
THE DEATH COMMANDOS. THE PHOENIX HAS KILLED SEVERAL OF THEM ALREADY WHILE HUNTING HER...
FINE. THE GUARD CAN'T DO IT? I'LL MAKE A NEW GUARD...ONE THAT KNOWS HOW TO KILL.
WE'RE AT A PRISON, RIGHT? I'LL SEND THE CRIMINALS AFTER THE STARJAMMERS. THEY'LL BE MY IMPERIAL GUARD.
I WANT TO SEE A LIST OF PRISONERS...

SHMT
TO BE CONTINUED...